



For Immediate Release

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Commission allocates \$132,000 to Trampoline Park, Birthing Center

The Williston City Commission announced financial support for two major projects in Williston at its meeting on May 10. The commission approved a total of \$132,000 from the Williston STAR Fund program for a new trampoline park and a new birthing center.

Construction is already underway at the Safari Trampoline Park. The \$2.8 million project will be located at the corner of 26th Street and 32nd Avenue West in Williston. The Williston STAR Fund and Bank of North Dakota approved funds for the project through their Flex PACE Interest Buy-down program. The STAR Fund will commit up to \$82,000 while BND will provide up to \$164,000. The Flex PACE Interest Buy-down program benefits projects that improve the quality of life in Williston.

"We have been working with the owner and the Small Business Development Center on this project for a year now, so we are very excited to see it come to fruition," said Shawn Wenko, Williston Economic Development executive director. "The SBDC played a huge role in securing the financing, helping with the business planning and assisting with the feasibility analysis to get the project started," said Wenko.

Jawaid (J) Surani is overseeing construction of the 25,000 square foot building. Safari Trampoline Park will dedicate about 13,000 square feet to trampoline space; 4,000 square feet for an arcade and bumper cars; 1,800 square feet for a kitchen and food court and about 2,000 square feet on the upper level could become a mini golf course down the road.

WED has been waiting anxiously to announce the start of the project.

"Aside from more retail options, a trampoline park is one of the most common requests we receive," said Wenko. "We have heard a lot lately from kids in our community who want a trampoline park."

The commission also approved up to \$50,000 from the STAR Fund Community Build/Growth program for CHI St. Alexius Health Williston to transform its outpatient birthing center to an inpatient birthplace.

"One of the biggest benefits of the project is the addition of the C-section suite," said Wenko.

The new center will provide more space for labor and deliveries in Williston. CHI currently averages about 65 births per month compared to the "pre-boom" average of 36 deliveries per month.

CHI officials say the \$3 million dollar project will help attract new families to Williston by providing a new larger birthing facility for families to grow.